

Regional Ethics Committees



Guidance. Support. Advocacy.



**NJ Office of the Ombudsman
for the Institutionalized Elderly**
1-877-582-6995
Guidance. Support. Advocacy.

Difficult Decisions

As individuals grow older and struggle with advanced illness and frailty, they, their families, and their care providers will likely be faced with difficult decisions about their care and treatment.

Decisions can include whether to provide or remove particular treatments, such as dialysis or artificial nutrition, adjust medications, or refer to palliative care or hospice.

For individuals in long-term care communities, the Ombudsman provides support and ensures that decision-making is resident-focused and consistent with ethical and legal standards.

One way the Ombudsman does that is through Regional Ethics Committees (RECs). RECs provide an impartial, comprehensive evaluation and assessment of the situation and offer non-binding recommendations to the individuals involved.

RECs provide much-needed education, conflict resolution, and ethical guidance to facilities and families when difficult decisions need to be made.



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1-877-582-6995 - www.nj.gov/ooie - ombudsman@advocate.state.nj.us

New Jersey's Long Term Care Regional Ethics Committees

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